

REPORTS
OF THE
SELECTMEN
AND
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
TOWN OF WEBSTER,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1866.

CONCORD:
PRINTED BY McFARLAND & JENKS.
1866.



REPORT.

The selectmen in account with the town of Webster,	<i>Dr.</i>
To taxes assessed and committed to John Sanborn,	
Jr., for collection.	
Resident,	\$6,589.48
Nonresident,	214.76
Nonresident Highway,	25.10
Received of former selectmen,	80.75
D. C. Hubbard, collection, 1864,	441.00
Thomas Kilborn, collection, 1863,	14.86
for old bridge timber,	4.07
Town of New London, support of paupers,	25.00
James S. Dodge, highway tax,	1.60
State Treasurer, State aid,	1,046.00
L. M. Kilborn, old bridge timber,	1.50
P. R. Stevens, revenue stamps,	.10
State Treasurer, Literary Fund,	21.70
" " tax on Savings Banks'	
deposits,	115.00
" " tax on railroad shares,	186.96
" " note and interest,	2,601.60
County, support of county paupers,	151.30
Hiram Roby, Jr., money hired,	550.00
David E. Burbank, " "	200.00
Rufus Fowler, " "	1,950.00
John B. Chase, " "	225.00
Chas. C. Kimball, " "	50.00
Ruth Stevens, " "	150.00
D. C. Stevens, " "	350.00
William D. George, " "	486.00
Charles Little, " "	100.00
Cyrus W. Watson, " "	100.00
Augustus B. Corey, " "	300.00
John C. Pearson, " "	300.00
John Sanborn, Jr., " "	300.00
Nathaniel Collins, " "	200.00

Received of Cyrus A. Stone, money hired,	50.00
Abiel Trumbull, " "	75.00
Charles D. Glitten, " "	100.00
Nathan Pearson, " "	115.00
Calvin Morrill, " "	50.00
Huldah H. Tuttle, " "	580.43
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	\$17,752.21

Disbursements.

Paid outstanding bills,	\$456.53
State aid,	289.63
Nonresident highway tax worked,	6.49
State tax,	1,935.00
County tax,	532.45
Roads and bridges,	803.75
Notes paid,	11,280.88
Miscellaneous,	118.49
Support of paupers,	787.96
School money,	572.90
Abatement of taxes,	23.38
Town officers,	175.50
Due on tax list for 1865,	625.29
Cash in treasury,	143.96
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Total,	\$17,752.21

Outstanding Bills.

Paid Phineas Whittier, work on bridge,	\$15.00
S. Burpee, care of L. Call and wife,	1.50
McFarland & Jenks, town reports, 1864,	38.00
D. C. Hubbard, abatements, 1864,	13.88
M. P. Favor, Supt. School Committee, 1864,	15.95
F. B. Sawyer, " " " "	12.00
C. A. Stone, " " " "	10.00
Thomas Kilborn, abatements, 1863,	8.43
James S. Dodge, chain lost, 1863,	2.00
H. L. Dodge, town officers' expenses,	2.00
A. J. Simpson, Selectmen's expenses, 1864,	27.42
Nonresident highway taxes worked,	.95
School house tax in district No. 7,	300.00

Paid H. G. Stone, Selectman's services, 1864,	2.00
Wm. D. Call, " " "	2.00
J. C. Pearson, " " "	3.00
N. Watson, bridge plank,	2.40
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	\$456.53

State Aid.

Paid William T. Libbee,	\$51.46
Isabella D. Locke,	48.00
Irena J. Ladd,	24.00
Rachel Call,	14.26
Laura A. Roby,	12.00
Susan J. Thompson,	46.00
Emeline S. Jeffers,	30.00
Almira Kelly,	51.21
Lydia D. Greene,	12.70
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	\$289.63

Nonresident Highway Taxes worked.

Paid heirs of Joshua Tufts,	\$1.25
Daniel Jones,	.32
Mary J. Pillsbury,	1.75
William B. Corser,	.25
Irena Corser,	.50
Harrison R. Sargent,	.92
Abraham Brown,	.75
John Burnham,	.75
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	\$6.49

State Tax.

Paid State Treasurer, State Tax,	\$1,935.00
County " County Tax,	532.45
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	\$2,467.45

Roads and Bridges.

Paid William Walker & Co., iron,	\$102.19
B. F. Dunklee, cutting bolts,	6.74
H. B. Foster, for tar,	6.10
Samuel Morrill, work on bridge,	21.00

Paid J. M. Hayes, for spikes,	3.85
G. C. Stone, work on bridges,	78.75
" iron,	.96
Albert Runnels, timber and plank,	186.00
F. L. Burbank, timber and plank,	144.09
H. G. Stone, work on bridges,	26.50
Ford & Kimball, iron,	1.72
Nathan Pearson, for work and stone posts,	9.61
J. S. Dodge, plank and boards,	7.61
Orrin Danforth, drawing bridge timber,	10.20
Charles F. Sanborn, work on road,	8.01
David J. Whittier, work on bridge,	5.00
John Sanborn, Jr., work on road,	6.00
H. L. Dodge, work on road,	1.75
L. M. Kilborn, work on road and bridge,	10.25
L. Corser, work on road, &c.,	8.00
P. S. F. Clarke, work on bridge,	2.25
H. B. Sanborn,	10.00
Abiel Trumbull,	10.50
John G. Simpson,	12.20
P. R. Stevens,	10.12
" iron work,	13.10
" work on road Pond Hill,	11.75
Peter Stone, work on road and bridge,	15.25
H. H. Gerrish, work on road,	1.50
F. S. Putney, work on bridge,	10.00
John B. Chase, iron work,	6.25
D. C. Eastman, work on road,	1.50
J. L. Couch,	3.00
Ephraim Little,	2.50
J. C. Pearson,	46.50
C. W. Spalding,	3.00
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	\$803.75

Notes Paid.

Paid P. C. Pillsbury, note and interest,	\$320.25
C. Brackett,	254.29
Luke Call,	319.47
S. B. Little, guardian of R. Shattuck,	139.85
" notes and interest,	1,355.02
S. J. Gerrish,	114.43
D. E. Burbank,	200.20

Paid E. S. Jeffers,	144.45
Jane G. Little,	208.88
George Little, on note,	200.00
G. S. Roby, note and interest,	104.65
W. D. Call, "	208.60
John Kilborn, "	121.30
J. Arey, "	536.86
J. C. Pearson, "	302.90
P. R. Stevens, "	201.26
Abner Sargent, "	464.96
Ezra Sanborn, "	160.46
Augustus Corey, "	307.55
Samuel Glitten, "	220.46
H. P. Corser, "	229.36
Benjamin Smith, "	262.55
C. W. Watson, "	102.78
C. S. Pillsbury, "	64.41
Joseph K. Sanborn, "	223.11
G. N. Tewksbury, "	106.20
John Adams, "	1,060.00
Luther M. Hoyt, interest on note,	18.00
H. L. Dodge, "	12.36
N. Collins, notes and interest,	253.90
N. Pearson, "	115.00
Charles Little, "	104.47
H. Roby, Jr., "	580.43
H. Tilton, "	324.73
G. Quimby, "	719.20
B. Tucker, "	240.74
John Tewksbury, "	376.03
W. M. Sweatt, "	215.92
Nathan Pearson, "	321.51
John C. Pearson,	64.34
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	\$11,280.88

Miscellaneous.

Paid D. L. Guernsey, invoice books, &c.,	\$5.31
F. B. Sawyer, Teachers' Institute,	15.00
S. C. Badger, legal advice,	1.00
D. E. Burbank, stationery,	1.09
A. & G. Foster, selectmen's expenses,	3.00
A. & F. A. Fowler, legal advice,	10.00

Paid B. W. Sanborn, stationery,	2.72
Selectmen's expenses sundry times,	14.30
for use of money,	.50
E. H. Rollins & Co., stamps,	.20
J. S. Cogswell, taking affidavits,	.50
discount at bank,	2.50
Atherton Sweatt, town clerk's salary,	11.02
Hollis Jackman, repairing town-house,	2.50
" digging graves, sexton's duties,	10.50
N. Pearson, board of S. Morrill,	3.50
liquor for paupers,	.85
O. H. Fitts, watering trough,	2.00
H. G. Stone, horse hire and car fare,	6.00
J. C. Pearson, horse hire and car fare,	20.00
J. C. Pearson, expenses out of town,	6.00
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	\$118.49

Support of Paupers.

Paid John Kilborn, support of E. and I. Thompson,	\$47.50
N. H. Asylum, " M. Sawyer, A. M. Carter,	349.56
D. C. Eastman, " M. Eastman, C. Dow,	169.00
H. C. Brackett, board of transient pauper,	9.50
R. E. French, " E. Thompson,	12.00
J. P. Sanders, clothing and books, M. C. Eastman,	6.00
" " " " Eastman and Dow,	14.25
H. H. Gerrish, clothing for H. Allen,	2.62
J. Huntoon, support of " "	17.75
D. E. Burbank, pauper account,	27.72
" " support of D. Heath,	26.71
C. S. Danforth, board of H. Allen,	37.15
D. C. Eastman, " B. Elliott,	27.07
Sundry pauper bills,	8.88
N. H. Arey, medical attendance on paupers,	9.00
M. P. Eastman, support of J. Thurlow,	21.25
H. H. Gerrish, " transient paupers,	2.00
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	\$787.96

School Money.

Paid Atherton Sweatt, District No. 1,	\$56.25
R. E. French, " " 2,	48.24
Edward Buxton, " " 3,	72.53

Paid Nathan Morgan, District No. 4,	48.25
William Clough, " " 5,	30.00
William Pearson, " " 6,	77.15
William D. George, " " 7,	41.00
C. S. Danforth, " " 8,	88.40
Wyatt B. Whittier, " " 9,	103.50
William Eastman, " " 10,	6.45
L. S. Dow,	1.13

\$572.90

Abatement of taxes, \$23.38

Selectmen's Services.

Paid John C. Pearson, services as selectman and overseer of the poor,	\$80.00
Hiram G. Stone, services as selectman and overseer of the poor,	45.50
Henry H. Gerrish, services as selectman and overseer of the poor,	32.00
Town treasurer, salary,	18.00

\$175.50

Indebtedness of the Town, March 1st, 1866.

Due to Phebe Noyes, on note,	\$60.00
Hannah C. Smith,	100.00
S. B. Little,	157.00
John Jones,	102.00
James Quinn,	45.00
Henry L. Dodge,	100.00
Charles D. Glitten,	400.00
Abner Sargent,	600.00
Sally Kimball,	350.00
John Sanborn,	1,396.32
Abby Corser,	923.00
Lydia D. Greene,	100.00
John Sanborn, Jr.,	300.00
Hannah Sanborn,	250.00
Albert Runals,	800.00
Nicholas M. Noyes,	237.00
Joseph Corser,	130.00
George W. Burbank,	85.00
Miriam G. House,	270.00

Due to Charles F. Sanborn,	368.00
Enoch Couch,	350.00
Zephaniah Batchelder,	800.00
Tamson D. Jackman,	100.00
Jesse D. Sanborn,	1,067.21
N. H. Arey,	100.00
John Stone,	50.00
George Little,	700.00
Calvin Little,	400.00
Charles C. Kimball,	150.00
Edmund Silver,	330.00
Emily S. Burpee,	230.00
Luther M. Hoyt,	300.00
Betsey Corser,	220.00
Louisa F. Pillsbury,	100.00
Henry F. Brackett,	112.00
Albe C. Sweatt,	681.00
Mary J. Sweatt,	609.00
Clara F. Burpee,	30.00
Mary M. Runals,	600.00
William Clough,	400.00
Rufus Fowler,	1,950.00
John B. Chase,	225.00
Ruth Stevens,	150.00
D. C. Stevens,	350.00
W. D. George,	486.00
Cyrus A. Stone,	50.00
Abiel Trumbull,	75.00
Calvin Morrill,	50.00
Huldah H. Tuttle,	580.43

\$18,018.96

Estimated interest,

1,327.79

Total indebtedness of the town,

\$19,346.75

Assets.

Due from the State, volunteers' aid,	\$119.63
State, bounties advanced, 1864,	1,500.00
United States, bounties advanced, 1863,	1,760.00
John Sanborn, Jr., on collection, 1865,	625.29

Due from D. C. Hubbard, on collection		
1864,	87.52	
Stock in hands of liquor agent,	101.95	
Cash in treasury,	143.96	
	<hr/>	\$4,338.35
Balance of indebtedness March 1st, 1866,		\$15,080.40
Total indebtedness of the town, as reported March		
1st, 1865,		\$22,477.83
Error. Notes not reported,		766.50
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Total indebtedness of the town, March 1st, 1865,		\$23,244.32

JOHN C. PEARSON,	} <i>Selectmen</i>	
HIRAM G. STONE,		of
HENRY H. GERRISH,		<i>Webster.</i>

*Report of Liquor Agent for the Town of Webster, from February
24, 1865, to February 26, 1866.*

Cash received from sales of liquors,	\$385.72	
Cash received from sales of casks, &c.,	3.05	
	<hr/>	\$388.77
Cash paid for liquors,	\$272.01	
Cash paid for license,	25.00	
Agent's salary,	30.00	
	<hr/>	\$327.01
Cash now on hand,		61.76
Liquors, casks, &c., now on hand,		70.63
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		\$132.39
Whole amount on hand, February 24, 1865,		101.95
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Net profit,		30.44

ATHERTON SWEATT, *Agent.*

REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

FELLOW CITIZENS: We have undertaken with much diffidence the superintendence of our schools, for we feel that the education of our children is one of the highest trusts which, as parents, guardians and citizens, we have committed to us. And their education, aside from what is afforded in the family, is mainly obtained in our common schools. Few receive more than a term or two of instruction beyond them, while the education of many is commenced and finished in them. They ought, then, to be such as shall give to our children a thorough and practical knowledge of the branches taught, and develop their moral as well as intellectual faculties. To make them such, we must feel that we all have something to do. Let no one say, I will not go to the school meeting: I am not interested in the schools: I have no children to send. Such a sentiment is unpatriotic in the extreme. Would you live in a peaceable, enterprising and prosperous society, under a wise, good and efficient government? Do you value your own personal safety, and that of your property? The common school is the index of society—the basis of republican government; and the stability of our free institutions depends upon the general intelligence as well as virtue of the masses.

What we most need at the present time, for the improvement of our schools, is a sense of the responsibility which rests upon each of us in regard to them. That we take a deep interest in and good care of them, is a duty we owe to our children and our country. How, then, shall we manifest our interest in them?

1. By providing pleasant, comfortable, convenient and respectable school-houses.

2. By employing the best of teachers.

3. By visiting them often—especially at the closing examinations; thus encouraging our children, and showing them that we attach importance to our schools, and are expecting them to make improvement from term to term. How can we manifest a good degree of interest in our schools without doing these things? How but by our works?

Prudential Committees. The prudential committee of each district should see that the school-house in his district is put in as good repair, and made as pleasant and comfortable as circumstances will admit, before the commencement of each term. Two good and substantial chairs, at least, should be provided. The blackboards should be well painted, and new ones furnished, if needed.

In the selection of teachers, they should bear in mind that they are to act upon minds and hearts that are immortal—that the impressions they make can never be effaced. It is not wise to put into the school-room thoughtless, inexperienced youth, who do not realize the importance of the work of a teacher; but tried and successful

teachers should be employed, if they can readily be obtained. And committees ought not to be too penurious in regard to the wages of superior teachers. The idea is too common, We have but little money and can't pay a teacher very high wages, if we do our school will be short. Whatever be its length, we wish the advance our children do make to be in the right direction. The *first* thing to be sought is a *good* school; then, as long as we can have it. And this order ought never to be reversed.

Teachers. We need a better class of teachers, and, in obtaining them, prudential committees must take the lead. In this matter the superintending committee has no power beyond a vetoing power. The majority of our teachers are not so familiar with the branches taught in our common schools as they ought to be; hence, are too much confined to the text-book. They should be so familiar with them as not to need a text-book. We require this thorough knowledge in every other profession—why not in teaching? A lecturer must understand the subject upon which he lectures; and we want our teachers to be able to give a lecture upon every recitation.

Many of them are too young, consequently lack sound judgment and maturity of character—two of the great essentials in the government and training of children. They do not act upon principle themselves, and how can they be expected to influence scholars to act upon good moral principles.

There is also a great want of devotion to the appropriate work of a teacher. There are many who, having obtained simply a passable education, commence the business of teaching with the idea that to hear the scholar read and spell, and ask the questions in the text-book, and see that they are answered according to it, is all that is required of them. Thus they pass on, term after term, adding but little to their stock of knowledge or capacity to teach. Such persons should be kindly advised to seek some other employment, and never be sent into a school merely because they will possibly do, and can be had cheap.

But we have some very excellent teachers, whose aim manifestly is to be worthy of their profession, and to be able to give a good account of their stewardship.

Our schools, during the past year, have been quiet and orderly. No serious trouble has arisen in any of them. Their government and influence have been better than in some preceding years. But we hope the day is not distant when we shall all take a deeper interest in the training of our children, and in preparing them to be blessings to us and the world.

District No. 1. Summer term, Miss Georgie Calef, teacher; Mr. Atherton Sweatt, prudential committee. Length of school in weeks, $5\frac{1}{2}$; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$16; whole number of scholars, 21; average attendance, 18.

The teacher, perhaps, lacked a little of that patience and tact so essential to secure the highest affection of her scholars, but her energy and systematic efforts could not fail to produce in them a good

degree of improvement. Most of the classes made good progress,—some of them very good; among which the class of beginners in the Common School Arithmetic deserve especial mention. The order of the school was very good, and worthy of much commendation.

Winter term, Miss Georgie Calef, teacher; wages per month, including board, \$16 $\frac{3}{4}$; length of school in weeks, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$; whole number of scholars, 20; average attendance, 17. The teacher labored well for the advancement of her pupils, and, in some classes, was rewarded by rapid progress; in others, the improvement was not so manifest. The teacher well says, "To insure good success in any school, the parents should co-operate with the teacher." I find, in the Register, the names of but two or three of the parents as visitors of the school during either term. I have failed to discover the reason for this neglect. It can not be because your scholars are dull, and, consequently, that you cannot be interested in them, for your school has as fine scholars as any one in town. Neither can it be that your school-house is so dilapidated that, like other "poor relations," we avoid its acquaintance; for, if it is good enough for your children, as a matter of course it is good enough for you. But whatever be the reason, no one can intelligently decide whether a teacher does her whole duty or not, unless he sees for himself. K.

District No. 2. Miss Jennie P. Call, teacher; length of school in weeks, 10; wages of teacher a month, including board, \$18; number of scholars, 20; average attendance, 17. This school was well instructed. The teacher went about her work as one who knows what to do and how to do it. A good degree of interest was awakened in the several classes, and more than ordinary progress was the result. C. A. S.

District No. 3. Summer term, Miss Elizabeth M. Buxton, teacher. Rev. E. Buxton, prudential committee. Length of school in weeks, 8; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$14; whole number of scholars, 34; average attendance, 28.

The improvement of the scholars generally was good; in some classes, very good. The teacher labors patiently and well, without any attempt to conceal defects, or cover indolence or ignorance with "glittering generalities," for show at examination. More discipline would be advantageous to this school.

Winter term, Miss E. M. Buxton, teacher; wages per month, including board, \$16. Length of school in weeks, 7; whole number of scholars, 26; average attendance, 22. Many of the scholars exhibited too much indifference, both to their studies and general appearance, while in the school-room. We think a little stricter discipline would tend to improvement in this respect. The teacher spares no pains to improve the understanding of her scholars, applying herself directly to her task of teaching, striving to inculcate principles and ideas rather than the mere repetition of words and sentences; and we noticed in those scholars who were disposed to learn, very good improvement. K.

District No. 4. Summer term. The school was taught by Miss

Lizzie S. Morgan with tolerable success. The scholars were small and but few in number. Some improvement was evidently made.

Length of school in weeks, 6; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$12; whole number of scholars, 10; average attendance, 9.

Winter term, Miss Hattie M. Tucker, of Hopkinton, teacher. She manifested a good degree of interest and efficiency in the government and instruction of the school. Most of the scholars appeared well. Length of school in weeks, 10; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$16; whole number of scholars, 16; average attendance, 14. s.

District No. 5. Summer term; length, 7 weeks. Miss H. Ella Rowell, of Hopkinton, teacher; wages per month, including board, \$13.42; number of scholars, 15; average attendance, 13.

The government and instruction of this school were acceptable. The advancement in knowledge exhibited by the scholars was such as to indicate that the time had been improved.

Winter term, Miss Nancie T. Daniels, of Hopkinton, teacher. Length of school in weeks, 7; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$16; number of scholars, 19; average attendance, 14.

Under the management of an experienced and successful instructor, this school presented a fine appearance. Its members seemed to realize the importance of the work in which they were engaged, and labored with that earnestness which is always sure to win success.

C. A. S.

District No. 6. Summer term, Miss Ella F. Stone, teacher. Although this was Miss Stone's second effort at teaching, the interest she took in her scholars and the devotion she manifested to her work, were worthy of commendation. The school was managed with a good degree of prudence, and was evidently profitable.

Length of school in weeks, 8; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$13; number of scholars, 10; average attendance, 9.

Winter term, Miss Ellen K. Abbott, teacher. Miss Abbott is one of the few who aim at high attainments as a teacher, and by long experience, native energy and perseverance, comes well up to her aim. The school was judiciously governed and well instructed. Its moral and intellectual influence were both good. Length of school in weeks, $8\frac{1}{2}$; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$28; whole number of scholars, 18; average attendance, $16\frac{1}{4}$. s.

District No. 7. Only one term. Miss E. K. Abbott, teacher. Mr. William D. George, prudential committee. Length of school in weeks, 9; wages of teacher per month, exclusive of board, \$18; whole number of scholars, 24; average attendance, 22.

With a good new school-house, fine scholars, and a popular and experienced teacher, there could not be otherwise than good improvement. The school at its close showed thorough drilling in the studies pursued, together with a considerable amount of general information not usually introduced into our district schools. Teacher labors with all her might, and keeps up with the times, which is one

secret of her success. She infuses an enthusiasm into her scholars, as well as a pride to make a good appearance before their visitors, which are sure to be numerous. Parents and friends (for a wonder) turned out at the examination in such numbers as to give the new house a regular house-warming. So long as they do so in future schools, they need not fear that their children will fail to make good improvement. K.

District No. 8. Summer term, length in weeks, 10; number of scholars, 26; average attendance, 23 $\frac{1}{4}$.

The teacher was well qualified for her position, and evidently sought the best interests of her school. Good improvement was made in most of the classes. Of the government, we can not speak definitely, but think it was, in most respects, satisfactory. Miss Ella C. Darrah, of Bedford, teacher; wages per mo., including board, \$16.

Winter term, Mrs. Fanny W. Danforth, teacher; length of school in weeks, 8; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$20; number of scholars, 31; average attendance, 24. Mrs. Danforth entered her school with a determination to improve its condition. In this she succeeded to some extent. Scholars were "persuaded" that order is essential to improvement, and must be preserved if the highest good would be attained. Most of the classes made good progress in study; others manifested a want of that thoroughness which we hoped to see. C. A. S.

District No. 9. Summer term, Miss Celia H. Heard, of Hopkinton, teacher. Miss Heard has experience, and is a good disciplinarian and thorough scholar. Her labors were attended with a good degree of success, which she attributes very much to the co-operation of the parents, the beneficial effects of which, she says, have been felt every day in the school-room. The deportment of the scholars and the appearance of the school at the examination were highly gratifying.

Length of school in weeks, 8; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$26; whole number of scholars, 27; average attendance, 23. S.

Winter term, length in weeks, 9; number of scholars, 35; average attendance, 32.

The good reputation this school had acquired in former terms did not suffer during this. At the closing examination, evidences of superior scholarship and well improved time, were plainly visible. Mr. George D. Stackpole, teacher; wages per month, including board, \$25. C. A. S.

Respectfully submitted,

F. B. SAWYER,

C. A. STONE,

L. M. KILBORN,

} S. S. Committee.

Webster, February 28, 1866.